

Profile: Libby O'Connor, page 6

Appointments, page 15

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol. XII, Issue I September/October 2012

SHEFFIELD FAIR IS SEPT. 8 AT THE TOWN PARK

For more than 10 years, the end of summer in Sheffield has meant great corn, occasional torrential downpours and the Sheffield Fair, held on the Saturday after Labor Day weekend.

The 12th annual Fair this year coincides with the Sheffield Friendly Union's 125th anniversary celebration of Dewey Memorial Hall. Both events are under the "Sheffield in Celebration" umbrella.

Sheffield in Celebration was founded by the Sheffield Association, publisher of the

Sheffield Times, in 2001 as a way to connect people and businesses in the community and celebrate our town.

The Sheffield Fair

This year's fair is on Sat., Sept. 8, from noon to 5pm at the Town Park on Miller Ave. Admission is free.

A real country fair, it includes showmanship and fitting competitions for cattle, horses and poultry. There will also be other animals for fairgoers to enjoy.

NEW IN TOWN: INFORMATION KIOSK



The Sheffield Business Association's new information kiosk has now been installed next to the Village on the Green Restaurant in the center of town. The structure was built by students at Mt. Everett High School. When it's finished, it will house member brochures and other information as well as two community bulletin boards for public notices.

8

The 4th Annual apple pie contest is sponsored by King Arthur Flour, which provides prizes in three age categories and a prize for best in show. See the entry coupon and rules on page 3.

The Old Parish quilters have been busy and will auction off their beautiful creation (see page 3). It's the 20th annual raffle to benefit the church.

Local craftspeople, organizations and community groups, including the Town of Sheffield, will have tables to dispense information and sell their wares.

The food court will include local produce and baked goods for sale. And the popular Historical Society salad bar will be back, with more than 25 salads to choose from! The Kiwanis will be back with their hot dogs and hamburgers, and there will be ice cream and fair food too.

Activities for kids will include facepainting, hay rides and lots more!

New this year, is a unique bike ride— "Ride & Rhyme"— it starts at 12:30, for the first 15 people who sign up. The eightmile ride will take a fairly flat route. This chance to see Sheffield's backroads and learn about the town is suitable for adults and older kids and will last about an hour.

All through the Fair, local and regional talent will play family-friendly music. The music is being produced by Tom Ingersoll.

Dewey Hall anniversary Celebration

The Dewey Hall festivities start at 7:30pm with a tree planting and cake and then music feature Kip Beacco and Continued on page 3

In this issue

C	ommunity
	Music & More, McGarry party
	Dewey Hall pie contest
	Sheffield's lime kilns, church auction
•	Farmers' market, folk music, art show
	Libby O'Connor profile, Barnards talk
	Ukuleles in Sheffield

	Library News	10
2	Church news	12
3	Senior Ctr. Friends, Good Samaritan b	enefit I 3
4	Village Green	
5	Board of Selectmen minutes	14
5	Town appointments, recycling	15

ilai cii ilcaas	12	· New antique store
nior Ctr. Friends, Good Samaritan benefi	tI3	Cobble news & events, Scouts
illage Green		Kiwanis, Harvest Brunch
Board of Selectmen minutes	14	Land Trust
Town appointments, recycling	15	Real estate transfers & fire log
Town Clerk, Disabilities, Planning Board	16	Calendar page
Conservation Comm., Cultural Council	17	23

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Sheffield TIMES

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Working since 2001 to foster communication among the people, businesses and organizations of Sheffield and Ashley Falls.

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MUSIC & MORE IN NEW MARLBOROUGH

The 21st season of Music & More is underway in New Marlborough. Events take place at 4:30 at the Meeting House on the New Marlborough Green. Music tickets are \$25 (\$20 for members of the New Marlborough Village Association). Tickets can be reserved at the website (www.newmarlborough.org), by phone at 229-2785, or purchased at the door.

The internationally acclaimed Daedalus Quartet appears on Sept. 8. The Boston Classical Trio will makes its Berkshire debut on Sept. 15, preceded by a free pre-concert talk at 4 p.m. On Sept. 22 pianist Robert Levin and violinist Daniel Stepner play Johannes Brahms

and Levin will perform a selection of piano music by Mendelssohn. A free preconcert talk begins at 3:30.

On Sept. 29, the acclaimed Latin-jazz vocalist and composer Maria Rivas joins clarinetist Paul Green and the Jewish Jazz Project Ensemble for a collaboration of jazz, Latin, Klezmer and Sephardic music followed by a wine tasting, hosted by Domaney's of Great Barrington in the Art Gallery.

The Festival concludes on Oct. 6 with Liza Mundy (The Richer Sex), Andrew Nagorski (Hitlerland) and Peter Cameron (Coral Glynn) discussing their work. Tickets to this event are \$10 and \$15.



Police Chief's party. Jim McGarry, Sheffield's retiring police chief, was honored at a town party on July 28. The Board of Selectmen—Julie Hannum, David Smith, Jr., Rene Wood—presented Jim with a placque and certificate of appreciation for his 45

years of service, among honors from the Fire Dept., State Senator Ben Downing, State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, US Senator Brown's office and others. Below: Jim and the whole police department. Acting Police Chief Eric Munson is standing

to Jim's right.

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Novermber/December issue deadline:

October 15

October 15

MORE PIE! DEWEY HALL'S CONTEST IN OCTOBER



The second annual "People's Choice Anything Goes" Pie Contest will be held at Dewey Memorial Hall in downtown Sheffield on Sun., Oct. 7. The pies can be sweet or savory. All pies must be in place by noon. Judging will begin at 3pm.

The contest follows on the contest held at the Sheffield Fair. That contest is for apple pies only. King Arthur Flour is the sponsor of both contests.

Dewey Hall's contest is a fundraiser for the Sheffield Friendly Union, stewards of the hall. All pie lovers are invited, with an entry fee of \$5. People will receive ballots at the door to vote

for up to five different pies. The pie receiving the most votes wins.

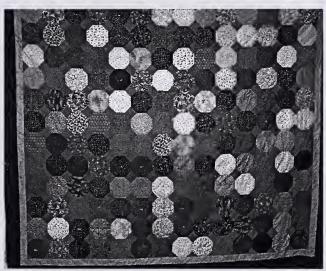
First prize is a \$75 gift certificate. Second and third place winners will get certificates for \$50 and \$25, respectively.

After the prizes are awarded, everyone is welcome to eat more pie or buy pies to bring home.

Last year, 35 pies were baked for the Dewey Hall contest. Savory entries included a spaghetti pie, a tomato pie, a shepherd's pie, a Canadian meat pie and three vegan pies. Dessert pies accounted for most of the entries. They included plum, lemon meringue, apple, pumpkin, berry, cherry, various cream pies and a big chocolate chip cookie in the shape of a pie

—Ken Terry

OLD PARISH ONCE AGAIN RAFFLES A QUILT



The 20th annual raffle quilt by the quilters at Old Parish is a queen-size handquilted beauty based on the traditional "Snowball pattern". This version has 168 colored balls and has been named "Gum Balls". The colorful quilt is reversible with a quiet creamy side that really shows the hand quilting. Quilters Sandra Alden, Teddi Batacchi, Marcia Brolli, Dor Caul, Jo Elling, Anne Hyatt, Marion Whitman and other Old Parish members will be there with chances for you to win!

FAIR, from page 1

the Lucky Five playing "swingin' jazz" in the tradition of 1920s, 30s and 40s jazz.

This concert kicks off the 2012-2013 season of the Dewey Hall Folk Series (see page 5 for more). It's the sixth season for the popular concerts, which feature regional favorites and artists with national followings.

Dewey, a Unitarian minister and author born in Sheffield in 1794. After he retired in 1862, he devoted himself to community projects, one of which was founding the Sheffield Friendly Union Library Association to "increase good and kindly feelings and to promote intelligence and cheerfulness". After his death in 1882, his friends raised money to build the hall as a home for the Friendly Union Association.

FAIR CONTACTS

For more about the Fair, the Show-manship & Fitting Competition or to inquire about vendor and exhibitor space, contact Kathy Orlando at 229-8789 sheffieldfair@gmail.com and see coupon below. For the Food Court, contact Barb Davidson at 229-8091. For the Apple Pie Contest, contact Jennifer Gaenzle Smith at 413-329-6580 or email to jennifer@gaenzle.org and see coupon below.

APPLE PIE CONTEST ENTRY FORM Pies must arrive by 12 noon for judging by 3pm. Pies must be in a non-returnable pan, wrapped in a clear plastic bag, with a written list of ingredients. No food mixes. Pies will be judged on appearance, aroma, flakiness of crust and taste. Judges' decisions are final.	Category □ Junior (ages 17 or younger) □ Adult (18 to 59) □ Senior (60 and up) Name Address
To register, mail coupon to: Jennifer Gaenzle Smith, P.O. Box 625, Sheffield, MA 01257 Questions? Call Jennifer at 413-329-6580 or email her at jennifer@gaenzle.org.	Phone Email
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Community News

LIME KILNS: BURNING ROCKS

More than 10,000 years ago, lime was discovered, perhaps when prehistoric people noticed that a particular kind of rock exposed to fire fell apart into dust, and that the dust when mixed with water formed a paste that soon returned to rock. From then on, lime production hearths have been found wherever humanity attempted to build with materials more durable than mud and wattles.

How to burn limestone chunks so they become lime dust came to Sheffield with its European immigrants, who used it in masonry, in making low-carbon iron and steel, as a flux in glass production and in agriculture. In Sheffield, two kiln ruins and their adjacent quarries remain. One is in the woods by the north side of Lime Kiln Rd., between Sheffield-Egremont Rd. and Route 7. The other is part of the Audubon Lime Kiln Farm Sanctuary off of Silver St.

Both kilns were built adjacent to weathered limestone outcroppings, where simple tools could follow the deep cracks that made it relatively easy to pry out limestone as chunks and blocks. The stones were loaded into skips and carts and sent to the kiln.

The limestone outcroppings are remnants of the ancient seas that once covered western Massachusetts. Hundreds of millions of years ago, shell-producing organisms died and precipitated deep calcium-rich layers to the seafloor, which then were buried deeply and heated into limestone. Around the seas vast sand dunes accumulated and were also buried and heated, becoming quartzite.

Geological uplifting followed by erosion and the glaciers of ice ages scoured away the overburden, leaving behind durable quartzite hilltops as found on Mount Everett. Tom Ball Mountain. and Squaw Peak, and adjacent limestone valley knolls and floors still mined throughout Sheffield and Berkshire and Litchfield Counties.

Empedocles, a Greek poet and scientist who lived between 482 and 426 BC in the Sicilian town of Agrigento, may have first described the cycle of lime in his book Nature. He writes, "There is some magic in collecting a stone from the land, which demolished by fire, molded with water and with exposure to air [again becomes] a solid as hard as the starting stone." —Fred Harwood



Easier to see when the leaves are down: the old lime kiln off Lime Kiln Rd, above, and at Lime Kiln Farm Sanctuary, below.



CHURCH HOLDS SILENT AUCTION OCT. 6

Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran Church will hold its 13th Annual Silent Auction on Sat., Oct. 6, from 8am to 3pm. Items include antiques, collectibles, art, jewelry, household and garden items, gift certificates from local businesses, restaurants and cultural venues. Homemade lunch is available from 11am-2pm. House bids can be left until noon. Free admission and lots of free parking. Successful bidders will be notified by phone; pickup is on Sat. or Sun. morning.

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FARMERS' MARKET NOW TO RUN TO SEPT. 21

The Sheffield Farmers' Market has had such a successful season that the vendors have asked to extend the market through Fri., Sept. 21. Look for some fall vegetables during those added weeks!

Our first Corn Fest, held Aug. 17, was also a great success. Special thanks to Old Parish Church for letting the market expand to include the north, grassy side of the church. Thanks also to the Farmers' Market donors and the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

It was a beautiful day, with lots of children participating with parents or grandparents. The Sheffield Historical Society offered free popcorn to go along with their exhibit of political cartoons in the Old Stone Store. Singer Abby Lappen performed children's music that had everyone singing along. Our local clowns "Zeke" and "Toots" provided corny jokes.

Bobbing-for-corn proved to be a very popular, albeit wet sport, as were the

burlap bag races and wheelbarrow races. Everyone tried their hand at Corn Hole, a beanbag throw. There was face painting. Best of all, Rosie, a Guernsey calf, and Jason, a goat, were tethered under a tree,

quietly munching on hay while enjoying all of the petting they received.

Over on the market side there was Howden Farm selling sweet corn, of course. Also for sale: elotes, Mexican-style corn-on-the-cob served on a stick with special toppings, and corn salsas and salads galore.

Corn Fest was the first of many extra events that the Sheffield Farmers' Market hopes to produce in this and future seasons.

—Trudy Weaver Miller

ART LEAGUE SHOW AT LENOX LIBRARY

The Housatonic Valley Art League will hang its annual Small Works Show in the Welles Gallery at the Lenox Library during the month of October. The gallery is open Thursdays to Sundays and on Monday Oct. 8. Join us for the opening reception of Sat., Oct. 6, from 4 to 6pm.

DEWEY HALL FOLK MUSIC SERIES

The Folk Music Series kicks off its new season on Sat., Sept. 8, at 7:30pm. The concert, featuring Kip Beacco and his band The Lucky Five, also celebrates Dewey Hall's 125th anniversary. Search for "Beacco Lucky Five" on YouTube for a taste.

In October and November, Folk Music Series shows are on the first Friday instead of Saturday. On Fri., Oct. 5, at 7:30pm, Robert Oakes and Katherine Smith perform a mix of acoustic folk and pop. www.oakesandsmith.net.

On Fri., Nov. 2, at 7:30pm, David Reed presents an intimate evening of original and highly eclectic rigamarole. www.myspace.com/doctoreasymusic.

Dewey Hall is an acoustically superior hall with an intimate, family-friendly atmosphere. Light refreshments available. Suggested donation \$10 members, \$15 all others. 91 Main Street, Sheffield. www.DeweyHall.com.

Sheffield Kiwanis 3rd Annual Harvest Brunch Sunday, Oct. 28

9:30am - 12:30pm American Legion Hall, Sheffield

Raising funds for Warm the Children

Silent Auction & 50/50 Raffle New this year: Chinese Auction

Tickets: \$10 & \$5 (kids 4-12 yrs) Kids under 4 — free

Buy your tickets at: Silks, Gulotta's, JTC & Sons, Berkshire Styles, Shear Image, PJ's, Smitty's, Sears, GoodWorks Insurance or from any Kiwanian.

Please join us for great food & a great time!

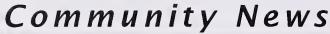
OCTOBER 20 AT I PM



SHEFFIELD LAND TRUST FALL PROPERTY WALK

TAKE A WALK ON PRIVATE, CONSERVED LAND WITH NATURIST RENE WENDELL AS GUIDE!

Watch for details closer to the date.



LIBBY O'CONNOR: HISTORY BACK TO BARNARD AND ASHLEY

Ashley Falls resident Elisabeth O'Connor, more familiarly known as Libby, has been coming to the Berkshires all her life. Her family background is intricately interlinked with the history of Sheffield, going back to the earliest settlers including, on the paternal side, the Ashley family.

Growing up in New York City, Libby spent summers here in her grandmother's home, Netherby Hall on Main St., which is now the home of antiquarian bookseller Rusty Mott and his wife, Veta. The house was built circa 1790-1800 by

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TALK ON THE BARNARD BROTHERS

On Fri., Sept. 14, Gerald (Rory)
O'Connor, one of General Barnard's surviving great grandsons and Libby
O'Connor's cousin, will present a program for the Sheffield Historical Society on "Historic Barnard Brothers of Sheffield." To hear more about the illustrious careers of Civil War Brigadier-General John Gross Barnard and Columbia president Frederick
A.P. Barnard come to Dewey Hall at
7:30pm. The program is free and open to the public.

Azariah Root, and came into the Barnard family through marriage; it remained in the family until the 1950s.

Libby's great great grandfather, Robert F. Barnard, was a Sheffield lawyer and several times state senator. He and Augusta Porter Barnard had three children, Sarah,

Frederick and John. Sarah married a senator and the sons became two of Sheffield's most illustrious citizens.

The elder son, Frederick A.P. Barnard, was born in 1809, graduated from Yale College and, after a remarkable career that included the presidency of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was elected 10th president of Columbia College in May 1864. Lillian E. Preiss's book, Sheffield: Frontier Town, notes that Frederick Barnard made a determined effort to allow women to be admitted to Columbia, which ultimately resulted in the establishment of the affiliated college for women, Barnard College, named in honor of its enthusiastic advocate. This was the college his descendant Libby was to attend, earning a B.A. in Liberal Arts with a concentration on history. The stone memorial chapel in Sheffield's Center Cemetery on Berkshire School Rd. was built by Columbia in honor of Frederick and Augusta Barnard in 1893.

Second son John Gross Barnard had a similarly stellar career. After attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he served for a time as an instructor, he became active in the Mexican War, supervising the construction of defenses. He was a talented engineer, being an expert in the gyroscope. His experience took him to the nation's capital where he became chief engineer of the Army of the Potomac and served in the campaigns of Manassas, the Virginia Peninsula and Richmond

and the siege of Petersburg. He masterminded the First Battle of Bull Run, which, although resulting in a rout of Northern soldiers, was described by General Sherman as being one of the best planned battles of the war. From 1864 to 1865 he was on General Grant's staff as chief engineer of the Armies in the Field and was cited five times for "gallant and meritorious



The Barnard brothers: Frederick Barnard above, General John Barnard below.



services" in both the Mexican War and the Civil War. The town memorial park just north of the green in Sheffield includes a memorial to these remarkable Sheffield brothers.

Returning to his Sheffield birthplace, General Barnard and his wife, Anna, continued their tradition of service, being instrumental in establishing the Episcopal Church in Sheffield, with early meetings being held in Anna's father-in-law's law office, just across Main St. from the site of the present Christ Church.

One of the Tiffany windows in that church is in memory of Libby O'Connor's great-grandmother Anna. Anna Barnard was also involved in establishing the Pine Knoll Association, which created the small park behind the building that is currently the Sheffield Library and where the original towering pines are still seen today.

Libby notes another link to the library—two military uniforms of the Barnard family. When the attic of Netherby Hall was cleared out in 1939, two uniforms were discovered, one belonging to General Barnard and the other to his son, Jack, who attended the U.S. Naval Academy and was involved in the Spanish-American War. There being

The Sheffield Farmers' Market is extended into September!

Fridays 2:30-6:30pm through September 21 RAIN or SHINE
Old Parish Church parking lot, Main St.—Rte 7
www.thesheffieldfarmersmarket.com

LIVE MUSIC! Moon in the Pond Farm, Howden Farm, Your Spice of Life, Berkshire Mountain Bakery, Earthborn Garden, Bill's Busy Bees, Ingleside Farm, Hosta Hill Provisions, Community Cooperative Farm, and more!

no Sheffield Historical Society at the time, the uniforms were donated to the Sheffield Library. Librarian Nancy Hahn is currently having them restored, after which they will be on display.

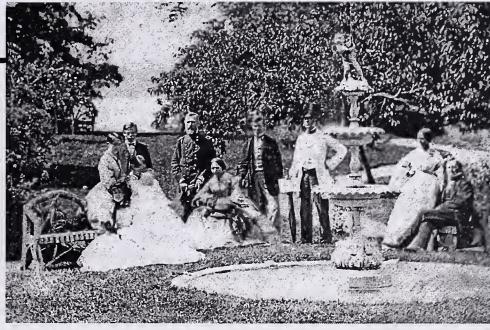
With such energetic and illustrious ancestors, it is no wonder that Libby has had a rich and rewarding life. Following graduation from Barnard College, she worked on Town and Country magazine in New York. When Netherby Hall was sold in the 1950s, her response was to leave the country and go to Paris for two years, "just for fun." There, she worked for Realité magazine but, when she heard that Ludwig Bemelmans, author of the classic children's book Madeleine, was opening a restaurant in the Isle de la Cité, she put in a stint as his bartender.

Returning to New York, she became, as she puts it, a "jack of all trades," doing publicity for prominent New York restaurants such as The Colony, Quo Vadis

and the Italian Pavilion. While much of her early work was editorial she was on the staff of Gourmet magazine—she later became involved in fund-raising

with a focus on non-profit and women's issues. She spent 40 years in the field, retiring at the age of 81.

A resident of Sheffield for the past 25 years, she started living full time in Ashley Falls five years ago. Libby speaks about how she, like many, are drawn back to Sheffield, which has changed remarkably little over her lifetime. She fondly recalls the polo pony of her girlhood,



A rare photo of the Barnard brothers at Niagara Falls. John is fourth from left, next to his sister Sarah. Frederick is on the right.

which she rode on Sheffield's dirt roads.

Libby continues to remain actively engaged in the community, serving on the board of directors of the Sheffield Land Trust, playing tennis each week and taking Pilates classes. The vibrancy and energy of the Ashley/Barnard/O'Connor ancestors is clearly evident in this Sheffield citizen with remarkable links to Sheffield's past.

—Dr. Gillian R. Hettinger

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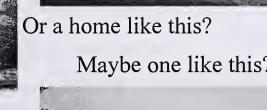
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Community News

THE MAGIC ON ROUTE 7

It's been nearly two years since the Magic Fluke Ukulele Co. came to Sheffield. The company, which manufactures and sells ukuleles and related products, is located just south of the town center on Route 7.

Phyllis and Dale Webb, the owners, officially opened on January 1, 2011. They moved their factory here from New Hartford, CT, choosing the Southern Berkshires because its cultural richness and diversity was ideal for a music business.

They bought Mike Shiels's post and

beam building next to Cupboards and Roses Antiques. "The structure was virtually brand-new and spotless," said Dale, "We only needed to do some minor modifications to make it suitable for our needs."

One addition to the building was an array of solar panels to the south side roof. The 10 kilowatt photovoltaic array was installed by Real Goods Solar, an American company that uses all American-made parts. The panels provide



The Magic Fluke building on Route 7.

all the electricity for the entire facility. "Our ukuleles," Dale says, "are proudly made in the USA, in the 'tropical' state of Massachusetts—powered by the sun!"

After the move, the Webbs hired six new employees, all from the Southern Berkshires. Three of their New Hartford employees stayed with them and commute daily from the Torrington, CT, area. Though they were looking for people used to working with their hands, the ability to work well as a team was even more important. "What we need in our workshop," Dale said, "is harmony—the ability to be in tune with one another."

After living in the Magic Fluke build-

PICKING UP AN INSTRUMENT

The Webbs now offer ukulele lessons in their shop. Rob Sanzone and Michael Doerr, who both work at the Magic Fluke, give private and group lessons. Rob also teaches a free ukulele class at the Berkshire South Community Center on Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8pm. Anyone who doesn't have his or her own instrument can use a Fluke or Flea provided by the Webbs.

On Tues., Nov. 13, there will be a ukulele workshop at the Route 7 facility taught by Lil' Rev, a musician renown in the ukulele world. He will follow the workshop with a short concert. Phyllis hopes this will be just the first of many events they will bring to the southern Berkshires.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, OCTOBER 6 from 8am – 3pm Make this your first stop!

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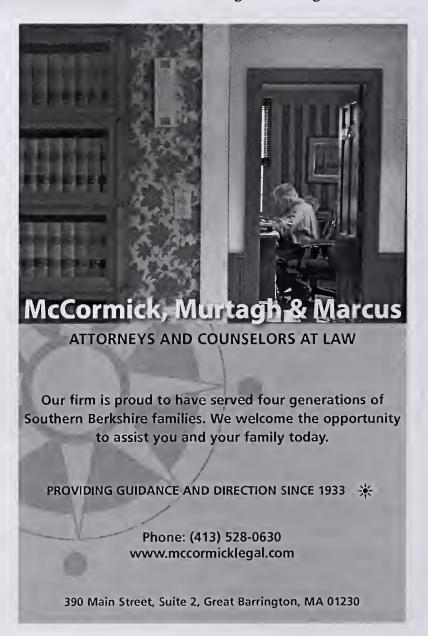
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Lunch Served

Leave your HOUSE BIDS 'til NOON! We'll execute your bids while you enjoy the rest of the day.

Successful bidders notified by phone for Oct. 6 & 7 pickup.



COMMUNITY MUSIC AT DEWEY HALL

On Fri., Sept. 21, Music in Common presents FODfest ("FOD" for "Friends of Daniel Pearl"), a community concert featuring area musicians and students from Mt. Everett High School at 7pm at Dewey Hall. The students have participated in the organization's MiC Youth Program, in which students work with industry professionals to write, record and perform a song together and to film and edit a music video of the song. The program takes place in September at Mt. Everett and the Off the Beat-n-Track Recording Studio in Sheffield.

At the concert, the students will perform their song and premiere their music video. It will also feature lim and Liz Beloff playing Fluke and Flea ukes and many other musicians. As a fundraiser for the program, dinner will be available for purchase. The concert itself is free and open to the public For more information, please visit www.musicincommon.org or email info@musicincommon.org.

ing for a time—they sold their New Hartford home more quickly than they thought they would—the Webbs found a house on Root Lane. Dale is helping remodel it and build a new garage and home workshop.

They also bought adjacent acreage that was the last undivided part of the former Cosgriff farm. The red dairy barn and the tractor on the corner of Root Lane and Salisbury Rd. came with that property. They plan to fix up the barn. Dale and his three sons removed all the old vines from the tractor, a decades-long icon on that corner, so it can now be seen again. They plan to leave it right where it is.

From knowing almost no one, the Webbs and their sons now have a wide circle of friends. The Webbs are members of the Sheffield Business Association and the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce. Recently, the Kiwanis Club invited Phyllis to speak to them about their company. During the summer, the Webbs lent two of their ukes to the Barrington Stage Festival's production of "A Thousand Clowns" which the two lead characters played during the performance.

Phyllis has joined the board of Music in Common, an organization started by Todd Mack in memory of his friend Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter who was murdered by Al-Qaeda in Pakistan in 2002. The group's goal is to bring communities together through music. A concert featuring the local community will be on Sept. 21 (see box above).

Their sons attend public and private schools. The youngest, Sam, goes to Undermountain Elementary School and the middle one, Ben, attends Mt. Everett High School. Josh, their oldest, is going to be a senior at The Millbrook School in Millbrook, NY.

Even as the Webbs were busy getting their business and family settled, they were working on ideas and plans for more "magic" happening at The Magic Fluke Co.

The Webbs' company actually comprises three businesses. The Magic Fluke Co. manufactures ukuleles, selling mostly to wholesalers throughout the world. The sister company, Flea Market Music, sells directly to customers on-line. And at the end of 2011, they opened a retail store in part of the building on Route 7.

Phyllis says that people just stop by to see the store and the factory, thrilled that such a "fun" business is here in their town. "Folks say that they couldn't wait to come in and see what we do. And some of them decide on

the spot to buy a ukulele," she says.

The Magic Fluke is now the largest manufacturer of ukuleles in the continental United States. Its products so far

include the Flea, the smallest uke; the Fluke, which is midsized; and the Firefly, which is banjo-like. Each can be bought with a variety of electronic options, fret boards and design and material upgrades. Further customization is also possible.

Dale takes pride in using local vendors and materials. Next year, Dale will be makBette Midler and her jeweled Flea.

ing a new model, an electric uke, from wood harvested on his own property in Sheffield.

The recent resurgence of the ukulele's popularity throughout the world has brought Magic Fluke orders from personalities such as Tony Danza, Jack Johnson, Bruce Willis and Sybil Shepherd. Bette Midler ordered one of Magic Flukes' first custom ukes, a pink Swarovski crystalencrusted Flea that she used on stage. On a recent Today show, she explained that she was selling part of her costume and stage collection for charity, and she showed the crystal Flea that was being auctioned off. Midler went on to say that she gave an identical one, but without the "jewels," to President Obama's daughters.

–Judith Schumer

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Library News

ACTIVITIES AT THE LIBRARY

clubs and activities are starting up at the Library. New this fall: a club for Lego fans.

Sit & knit. Like to knit or always wanted to learn? Join the group. It meets every Wednesday from 6 to 8pm.

Book club. The Library's book club meets on the first Thursday of every month from 1 to 2:30pm. The October book is This Side of Brightness by Colum McCann, to be discussed Oct. 4. November's book is Pete Hamill's Forever. Call Jill at 229-2761 for more information.

Beginning yoga. The Library offers classes with two teachers. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Lisa's basic yoga flow class meets Tuesdays, 6 to 7pm, followed by a breathing/meditation class from 7 to 7:30. Try one or stay for both. Call Lisa weekdays from 10am to 5pm at 413 298-3579 x25210 for more information.

Michelle's beginner's yoga class meets

After taking some time off for the summer, on Thursdays, 6 to 7:30pm. Call Michelle at 413-637-0272 or contact the library at 229-7004 with any questions.

> Poetry read around. Share your enjoyment of poetry. The "read around" meets one Saturday a month from 3:30 to 5pm. Next meetings: Sept. 22, Oct. 27. Bring your own poems or favorites by other poets. In September, the works of Jane Hirshfield will be read; in October, those of Natasha Threthewey.

> Chess club and Scrabble club for kids. Meetings will resume after school starts.

Lego Club. This new group will meets weekly on Tuesdays, 11am to noon. No registration is required. Call 229-7004 for more information.

Preschooler programs. The Community Health Program's Sing A Song playgroup will resume on Thurs., Sept. 13, 10-11:30am. Storytime for preschoolers: watch for an announcement for the fall schedule.

COMING THIS FALL

Oct. 5. Kathie Dean presents a talk on "Using Our E-Library." Learn how to borrow digital books and much more! At 6:30pm.

Oct. 14. Jessica Treat: Writing Workshop. Treat's stories, poems and essays have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including Ms., American Literary Review, and The Americas Review. A professor of English and Spanish at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, she also coordinates the annual Mad River Literary Festival.

Oct. 22. Simon Winchester: Book Talk. Winchester will be talking about and reading from his new book Skulls: An Exploration of Alan Dudley's Curious Collection at 6:30pm, Sun., Oct. 22. Alan Dudley was a British taxidermist who amassed one of the world's largest collections of animal skulls. Winchester uses the collection to explore the science and culture of skulls. With photos of more than 300 skulls.

November 17. Local Authors Day.



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> 575 Sheffield Plain, (Route 7) Sheffield, MA 01257 Sandra Preston, Broker, GRI, CRS

The Sheffield Historical Society



COLLECTING, PRESERVING AND TRANSMITTING Sheffield's History for the Future

The 1774 Dan Raymond House Museum offers tours May through September. Come explore the daily lives of common people from the Revolutionary generation onward, including the intriguing history of the Sheffield Tory for whom the house is named.

The Mark Dewey Research Center houses the town's early archives, including tax and real estate records, historic photographs, and genealogical research. Open most Mondays and Fridays, from 1:30 to 4pm, year round.

The 1834 Old Stone Store located on the Town Green functions as the Society's gift shop and exhibition space. Open weekends April to December.

159 Main Street • PO Box 747 • Sheffield, MA 01257 413.229.2694 • shs@sheffieldhistory.org www.SheffieldHistory.org

GEARING UP FOR THE ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Think of it as a new three Rs: Recycle, Reread, Rewarding. One of the major fundraisers for the Library is the October book sale, organized by the Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library. The Friends, a nonprofit organization, support the Library by purchasing materials and furniture, organizing programs like Local Authors Day and funding projects like the patio outside the downstairs Community Room.

Anyone can join the group by donating \$20 or more a year. One benefit of membership is being invited to the special Book Sale Preview. This year' it's on Fri., Oct. 26, from 6 to 8pm. You can join the Friends at the door.

The public book sale will be on Sat., Oct. 27, from 10am to 4pm and on Sun., Oct 28, from 12 to 4. Proceeds benefit Library programs.

Throughout the year, the Library receives boxes and boxes of donated

books from generous patrons. The books are reviewed, and some are added to the Library's collection.

But most are sorted to be sold at the annual book sale, a fun event with more than 15,000 books in more than 35 categories. Many are priced as low as \$1. All the books were donated since last year's sale.

In addition to thousands of books, there are some CDs and DVDs. On Sunday afternoon prices drop for clearance. Payment is cash or check, no credit cards.

The Friends actively seek book donations all year. Donors receive a confirmation letter for their gifts for tax purposes in January. Call 229-7004 for book donations, or mail contributions to: The Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library, P.O. Box 487, Sheffield, MA 01257.

The Friends currently have some 300 members. All are welcome at the monthly meetings at the Library on the second Saturday of the month at 9am.



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SAT. 10-5, SUN 2-5; MON. CLOSED

HELP DIGITIZE THE AURIGAN

Thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Bushnell-Sage Library has embarked on a project to digitize yearbooks from Mt. Everett High School. We are looking for Aurigans from these years: 1963, 1964, 1977, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1987-89, 1991, 1997, 1999-2012. (Books will be returned.)

If you have a yearbook from one of those years, we'd appreciate its loan. The Boston Public Library will do the scanning and make the information available online. The project is funded through the federal Libary Services and Technology Act.

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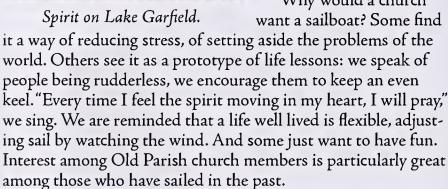
OLD PARISH CHURCH INHERITS A SAILBOAT

In the Bible, the words "ruach" or "pneuma" mean "wind" or "spirit," and are frequently used to describe the way God acts. So it should not be all that surprising that Old Parish Church now owns a sailboat and its name is "Spirit." More interesting, perhaps, is how this happened. One of the Church's parishioners with an interest in sailing noticed an ad on the Internet

> from someone who wanted to sell a wood Lightning class sailboat for \$1,500 but who would be willing to donate it to a legitimate non-profit.

In church, a negotiation followed. Yes, there was interest in owning a sailboat; yes, its insurance agent believed it was an acceptable ministry activity. So an email was sent to the seller, who lived in Saratoga, NY. Within 30 minutes, an agreement was reached. Spirit was launched June 10 in Lake Garfield in Monterey.

Why would a church want a sailboat? Some find



As the Rev. Jill Graham encouraged her parishioners,

"Get ready to sail on the winds of the Spirit! May the winds of resurrection fill your sails, energize your souls and empower your lives!" -John G. Wightman

ORDINATION AT OLD PARISH

Laura N. O'Shaughnessy was ordained to the Christian ministry of the United Church of Christ on July 29 at Old Parish Church, where she has been an active member of the congre-

gation for the past few years. Parishioners, family, clergy and representatives from United Church of Christ congregations in Berkshire County attended the gala event.

Ordination usually occurs when a candidate is in his or her 20s. What makes O'Shaughnessy's story interesting is that she was in her mid-60s. For most of her career O'Shaughnessy was a college professor, teach-



Laura O'Shaughnessy

ing for over 30 years at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. Along the way she married, had two children and was widowed. She also has four grandchildren.

Her spiritual quest began in 1999 after feeling God's call to become a minister at a retreat. She simplified her life, turning down opportunities for other employment and elective office. Eventually she entered Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, NY, where she graduated with an M.Div. degree in 2008. In 2004 she served in a supervised ministry position at Old Parish Church with Rev. Art Kaufman.

O'Shaughnessy has accepted a call to become an assistant chaplain at St. Lawrence University for one year. Then she will return to the Berkshires to consider other avenues of service. —John Wightman

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ASHLEY FALLS

Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational), 355 Clayton Rd. 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist Church), 1156 Ashley Falls Rd. 518-329-3606. www.ashleyfallsumc.org. Sunday: 11am Worship Service. Ken Phesay, Pastor.

First Congregational Church of South Egremont, 34 Main St. 528-2209. Sunday Worship: 10am. Rev. Steven Blackburn and Rev. Susan Wyman, Supply Pastors.

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist), North St. 528-4197. Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services not held every week. Schedules are updated on answering machine

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd. 528-6378. Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service. Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Associate Rabbi Ari Rosenberg

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran, 180 Main St. 229-8811. Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & child care; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Route 7 & Kellogg Rd. 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Old Parish (United Church of Christ), 125 Main St. 229-8173. Sunday: 10am Worship, Rev. Jill Graham, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic), Maple Ave. 229-3028. Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. Bruce Teague

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational), 1970 N. Main St. 528-2911, www.sheffieldchapel.org. Sunday: 10:45am Worship, 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wed.: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: Corey McLaughlin

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND BENEFIT

The Woods Tea Company is coming to town again. On Sun. Oct. 28, at 2pm, Tom MacKenzie and Patti Casey, with guest fiddler Eric Martin, will perform at the Old Parish Church in the center of town. During intermission, there will refreshments and CDs for sale. After the concert there will be an "After Glow" where everyone can bring their instruments—ukulele, harmonica, fiddle, guitar, spoons, whatever—and music to share with each other.

A freewill offering will benefit the Good Samaritan Fund, the emergency needs fund for Sheffield area residents. This concert provides about one-third of what the fund usually needs for the year.

Patty and Tom will visit Undermountain Elementary School on Mon., Oct. 29, for a performance and workshop showcasing the songs and instruments of old-time folk music.

Patty plays flute, penny whistle, guitar, voice and clogboard, the Canadian-style foot accompaniment. Tom plays hammered dulcimer, banjo, guitar, piano, ukulele and voice.

The event is produced by the Friendly Union, Old Parish Church, the Mission Committee of Old Parish Church, community volunteers and Undermountain Elementary school volunteers. Pauline W. Schumann is co-chair of the Festival. Questions can be directed to bevrkil@aol.com.

THE FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER

In July, beautiful, state of the art window treatments were installed at the Sheffield Senior Center, thanks to a collaboration between the Friends and the Town of Sheffield. Now the main room can be darkened for movies and presentations with the pull of a string or the press of a button—the treatments for the large window and the small high-up windows are operated by remote control.

Sheffield in Celebration. The Friends are working with the Commission on Disabilities on a booth for the Sheffield Fair on Sept. 8. There will be baked goods and beverages for sale with free popcorn and an information table from SHINE (Senior Health insurance Counseling). Anyone interested in donating baked goods can bring their items to the Senior Center on Fri., Sept. 7.

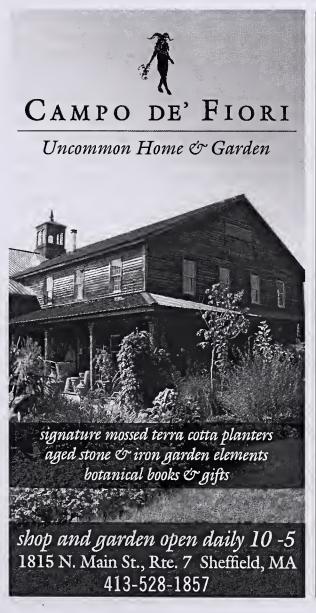
Cookbook. The Friends are putting together a cookbook as a fundraising venture. We're looking for favorite recipes from all of our Sheffield friends. Drop off a recipe at the Senior Center and get your name in our cookbook!

Christmas and Crafts Fair. On Dec. 2, the Friends will hold its first Christmas and Crafts Fair. Anyone interested in setting up a table to sell their handcrafted items can call George Oleen (229-6670), Kathy Cashiola (229-2774) or Claudia Martin (229-2871). Rates: \$20 for a card table, \$25 for a six-foot table, \$30 for an eight-foot table. Look for more details in the next issue of the *Sheffield Times*.

Stop by the Senior Center anytime to join in the many fun activities, to work on a puzzle or to just visit! Or visit us on the web at SheffieldSeniorCenterFriends.weebly.com.

Hope to see you soon!

—Claudia Martin



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ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The Annual Deadline for Chapter 61 A & 61B Applications is on or before Oct. 1. No exceptions. If you have any questions, call 229-7000 ext 155.

FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

June 18 working meeting

The Board discussed the search for a replacement for Jim McGarry, the retiring police chief. The Board agreed to post the positions of Acting Chief and Officer in Charge at the Police Station and ask John Ullrich to serve on a search committee.

Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard gave an overview of the Hanlon Land Court appeal [a 1996 Zoning Board decision], the Building Inspector's ruling and the Zoning Board of Appeals ruling. The Board agreed to consult with legal counsel.

June 18 regular meeting

Town boards and officers. The Board approved these appointments at this and the July 16 and August 6 meetings:

3-year term as Principal Assessor Tammy Blackwell 3-year term as Town Clerk Felecie Joyce Jill Hughes 3-year term as Asst. Town Clerk John James and Colin Smith 3-year terms to the Finance Committee John Arthur Miller 1-year term as Senior Center Director Thomas Carmody 2-year term as Building Inspector Kopelman & Paige 1-year term as Town Counsel D.M. Moschos 1-year term as Special Town Counsel

The Board approved Ryan Kresiak, Jacob Gonska, Brian Fahey, Eric Munson and Susan Rathbun to 3-year terms as full-time police officers and Scott Farrell, Michael Ovitt, Gary Mitchell and Richard Robarge to 3-year terms as reserve intermittent officers. See also the box on page 15.

The Board accepted the resignation of Jeremiah Cronin from the Fire Dept. and voted to send him a letter of thanks.

Per the recommendation of Recycling Coordinator David Steindler, the Board approved the placement of a Goodwill Industries drop box for donations of clothing and textiles. Goodwill will be responsible for maintaining the box.

The Board approved a curb cut permit for Peter Walsh on Berkshire School Rd.

July 11 working meeting

The Board discussed establishing email accounts for the Board and decided to follow up with Virtual Town Hall, the company that created the town's website.

After a discussion, the

Board decided not to help pay for the Sheffield Times Annual Meeting/Election Supplement. Instead, it will look into mailing the Annual Town Warrant to all voters.

July 11 regular meeting

The Board discussed the police chief contract and voted to delete the second paragraph of section 7 regarding buying back sick time.

July 16 regular meeting

Catherine Miller, one of Sheffield's representatives on the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee, gave an overview regarding the request to transfer \$250,000 from the school's Excess and Deficiency account to upgrade the lighting at the Sheffield campus. The Board approved the transfer with the provision that the rebate, when received by National Grid, be deposited into the Excess and Deficiency account.

The Board voted to accept the resignation of Grace Campbell from the Council on Aging and to send her a letter of thanks. They did the same for Jeffrey Briggs, resigning from the Fire Dept.

The Board voted to appoint Selectman Julie Hannum as the representative to the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority.

JTC and Sons Inc. submitted a proposal of \$160 per pull for metal recycling at the Transfer Station. The Board voted to accept the proposal.

The Board approved an application for Lisa White and Norma Kimmel for an Antique and Second Hands Goods License to operate Magpie's Closet at 1840 North Main St.

The Board declared July 31 as "Chief James M. McGarry Day."

Selectman Hannum noted that any business in town interested in becoming a member of the Southern Berk-



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PAINT AND OIL RECYCLING

Sheffield residents can recycle old oil paint and waste motor oil on Sat., Sept. 8, 9-11am at the Lenox Dept. of Public Works, 275 Main St., and on Sat., Sept. 29, 9-11:30am at the Great Barrington Recycling Center, 601 Stockbridge Rd.

Latex paint is not accepted at either event. Empty or dried-up cans of latex or oil-based paint can be disposed with the regular trash.

For more information, call the Center for Ecological Technology at 888-577-8448 ext. 10 or 30, email aric.brown@cetonline.org or visit www.cetonline.org.

shire Chamber of Commerce can join her as a guest at the next "After Hours" chamber event.

Catherine Miller inquired about installing a trash receptacle in the parking lot at the Town Hall. The Board discussed possible locations and took the matter under advisement.

Susan Butler was present to inquire about the location of cabins throughout the town, and submitted a letter to the Board.

TRANSFER STATION **HOURS**

TUES. & FRI.: IPM-4PM; SAT.: 8AM-4PM: SUN.: 8:30AM-2PM

The Friends of the Senior Center requested to have a Craft Fair at the Senior Center on December 2, which the Board approved.

The Board then discussed buying an amplification system for the town and decided to have Sam Sorentini

from Cutting Edge Audio/Video come to a working session and present options.

Administrator LaBombard received a letter from residents on Bow Wow Rd. regarding the intersection of Cook Rd., Miller Ave. and Bow Wow Rd. The Board decided to install dangerous intersection signs there and send a letter regarding shrubs needing to be trimmed.

July 17 working meeting

The Board decided to conduct interviews for an Acting Police Chief on July 23 and July 24 and discussed the interview questions and salary.

July 25 working meeting

The Board decided to appoint Eric R. Munson III for a oneyear term as Acting Police Chief, pending a signed contract.

August 6 regular board meeting

The Board voted to appoint Joseph Glaszcz and Kyle C. LeGeyt-Mcloughlin to a one-year probationary term to the Fire Dept.

The Board discussed the Annual 6th Grade Essay Contest sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Association and decided to participate in the contest again.

Ann-Elizabeth Barnes and Jana Laiz submitted a request for support for the proposed route for the Elizabeth Freeman Center's Annual "Mumbet Walk to Freedom," which the Board approved.

The Board voted to grant another Antiques & Second Hand Goods license, to Thomas Mattson, for a shop located at 665 North Main St.

Chairman Dave Smith, Jr., complimented everyone who helped make the Retirement Celebration for the Police Chief Jim McGarry a success. He noted that Acting Chief Eric Munson III will be introduced at the next meeting and encouraged town residents to stop in at the Police Station to greet him.

Bonnie Silver of 15 Bow Wow Rd. was present to discuss the intersection of Miller Ave., Cook Rd. and Bow Wow Rd., discussed at a previous meeting, and submitted alternate signage to the Board. The Board will take the suggestions under advisement and follow up with the Police Department.

The Board approved a curb cut permit for Michael Stumo of 615 Boardman St., to add a semi-circular driveway.

FY 2013 APPOINTMENTS TO TOWN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS				
Position	Term (years)	Appointment		
Agricultural Comm. Alternates	I	Dominic Palumbo and Ruth Ziegler		
Animal Control Officer	ı	Martin Clark		
Animal Inspector	I	Rick Boardman		
Ashley Falls Historic District Comm.	3	Richard Swiatek and Peter Rawson		
Board of Assessors	3	Barbara West		
Berkshire Regional Planning Alternate	ı	Rene Wood		
Board of Health		Scott Smith and Priscilla Cote		
Commission on Disabilities	ı	Claudia Martin		
Conservation Commission	3	Cheryl Blackburn, Howard Chezar, James T. Collingwood, Sr.		
Constable	1	James McGarry, Bruce Person		
Council on Aging	3	Richard Magenis, Janet Stanton, Dorris VanDeusen		
Cultural Council	1	David Reed		
Electrical Inspector	1	Richard Cappadonna		
Asst. Electrical Inspector	1	Carl Van Deusen		
Emergency Management Coordinator	L	Edward McCormack		
Emergency Management Director	_	Jim McGarry		
Gas & Piping Inspector	_	Robert Krupski		
Asst. Gas & Piping Inspector		Robert Gennari		
Health Inspector	1	George Oleen		
Highway Superintendent	3	Edward Lord		
Housing Commission	3	Kathy Orlando, John Stookey, Marilyn Wightman		
Local Emergency Planning Committee	I	Rick Boardman, Rhonda LaBombard, James McGarry, David Smith, Jr.		
Parking Clerk	- 1	Felecie Joyce		
Plumbing Inspector	_	Robert Krupski		
Asst. Plumbing Inspector	-	Robert Gennari		
Public Weigher	I	Michael Pezzee		
Recycling Coordinator	1	David Steindler		
South Berkshire Dist. Veterans Delegate	1	Dick Kirchner		
Tree Warden	ı	Edward Lord		
Veteran's Agent	I .	Laurie Hills		
Zoning Board of Appeals	3	Richard Kirchner		
Zoning Board Alternate	I	Greig Siedor		

FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Elections and voter registration. We are gearing up for the final two elections of this year:

Thurs., Sept. 6 State Primary
Tues., Nov. 6 State/Presidential Election
All elections will be held at the Senior
Center located on Cook Rd.

The deadline to register to vote or change party status is 20 days prior to an election, which makes the deadline for the November election Wed., Oct. 17. Check your voter status before the deadlines! See www.sec.state.ma.us/ele or call the Town Clerk's office with questions.

The Presidential Election is typically very busy, and the ballot is long. Try to review ballot questions ahead of time and be prepared to vote when you go into the booth. You will have 10 minutes to vote unless people are waiting, when the limit is reduced to 5 minutes.

Sample ballots will be available at the Town Clerk's office and also on the Town website: www.sheffieldma.gov.

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typesetting@kwikprintinc.com www.kwikprintinc.com Dog licensing. Please remember that if you have a dog six months of age or older, or if you reside in Sheffield a minimum of 30 days of

the year, you are required to license your dog. The fees are \$10 for intact dogs, \$5 for spayed/neutered dogs.

Licensing takes place annually from Town of Sheffield, March 1 to May 1. A fine of \$25 per Clerk, P.O. Box 17 dog will be imposed after the deadline. 01257. Please including the stamped envelope.

BE A RESPONSIBLE VOTER!

Things to consider before you vote on Nov. 6:

- Are you registered?
- · Have you recently moved to/from town?
- Has your registration address changed since the last time you voted?
- · Have you had a name change?
- Have you reviewed the questions that will appear on the ballot?

licensed anytime of year at the regular rate. With proof of rabies and spay/neuter status, you can mail in your request for a license. Make checks payable to the Town of Sheffield, and mail to Town Clerk, P.O. Box 175, Sheffield MA 01257. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

PLANNING BOARD: May, June, July meetings

In its May, June and July meetings, the Planning Board approved Form A applications (approval not required for subdivision) for properties that will be protected through the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction program and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife:

Michael Parsons, of Kelly Granger & Parsons, represented the applicants: John and Katherine Stookey for property on the west side of South Egremont Rd. and the Chase family for property along Lime Kiln Rd. The Stookeys are conveying 10 acres to the Sheffield Land Trust for preservation. Two lots will be separated from the Chase farm, one on each side of the road.

The Board accepted a Special Permit application from Binney Meigs to

construct an artist's sculpture studio on Hulett Hill Rd. The studio, planned for 1,300 square feet, would not be used for delivery of materials and only one person will work there 4-5 hours a day. The structure will be one story with a garage door. Meigs mostly works with granite less than 3 tons, about the size of a chair. He will use an air chisel and air hammer, which produce less noise than a lawn mower. Diamond cutting saws make a higher pitched sound but would be blocked by the building. There is no plan for any signage or exterior lighting except a motion sensor light in the parking lot. The art pieces are exhibited around New England. It will not be a retail operation.

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Sheffield's Commission on Disabilities will host another of its speaker series on Thurs., Oct. 18, at the Sheffield Senior Center as part of the Center's Third Thursday Luncheon. The topic will be "Resources and Aids for Hearing Impairments." Karren Larson from the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will discuss resources and Dawn Matthews from the United Cerebral Palsy Center will demonstrate aids for people with hearing difficulties. The luncheon begins at noon, with the talk commencing around 12:30. Everyone is welcome. If you want to attend the luncheon, contact the Senior Center at 229-7037. You can come just for the talk without calling.

Questions? Ask any member of the Commission: Laura Grunfeld, David Wells, Claudia Martin, Gail Mullen or Lori-Beth Amato. Or come to a meeting, which are once a month at the Library. The next meetings are Fri., Aug. 24; Fri., Sept. 28; and Fri., Oct. 19 and start at 3:30 p.m. For information about services in South County for people with disabilities, contact Laura Grunfeld at 229-2476 or laura@ everyonesinvited.com. Anyone who needs accommodation at a Town event should contact Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard at LaBombard@sheffieldma.gov or 413-229-7000 x152.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: June & July meetings

In its June and July meetings, the Commission issued "negative determinations" (wetlands restrictions do not apply) for

these properties:

Peter Walsh, for selective tree clearing on property on Berkshire School Rd. The trees, mainly white pine, will be used for lumber. Issued with the conditions that only marked trees are to be cut, they are to be felled away from the wetlands buffer zone and that no heavy equipment will be used to move them.

Wesley McCain for treating a pond on property at 400 East Rd. with herbicides. Issued with the conditions that the Commission is present at the application and the outlet of the pond is closed for five days after. The Commission reserves the right to review this project in future years.

Debra and Robert Beham for building a single family dwelling on Hewins St. for their daughter. A perennial stream runs along the property, and the site was chosen to minimize impact to the wetlands area. Issued with the condition there be no clearing into the wetland in the future and it be kept as a wooded area.

Dale Webb, to install a culvert on property on 205 Root Lane to allow access to forested property. This project qualifies as an agricultural exemption and no permit is needed.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy, for installation of a flexible pond leveler to mitigate flooding of property on Rt. 7. Tom Ingersoll, an abutting property owner, has noted that beavers were causing flooding onto his property. He was awarded a grant offered by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the device, which is installed through the beaver dam and allows water to drain out The Commission had no objections to this project.

In other business, the Commission walked the site for a conservation restriction to be held by the town on West Rd.,

CULTURAL COUNCIL SEEKS PROPOSALS

The Cultural Council is accepting applications for grants in the arts, humanities, and sciences. The deadline is Mon., Oct. 15. Last year, the Council distributed about \$4.000.

You can get more information at the Council's table at the Sheffield Fair on Sept. 8. Also, on Sat., Sept. 22, the Council will lead a free grant-writing workshop at the Library from noon to 1:30pm. For specific guidelines and application forms, see www.massculture.org/Sheffield. Questions? Ask Trudy Weaver Miller at trudyweavermiller@verizon.net or 413-441-6446.

as proposed by the Sheffield Land Trust. The Commission signed the conservation restriction and by doing so are recommending approval by the Board of Selectman.

The Commission visited The Nature Conservancy Schenob Brook Tract restoration project, revised now that access has been granted by Nancy Smith, an abutter, and found it beneficial to the endangered species on the site. The Commission will issue an enforcement order.



\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

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Organizations & Businesses

NEW ANTIQUE STORE IN SHEFFIELD

The newest shop in the center of Sheffield is Antiques on the Green. Located next to the Village Green Restaurant, the store opened last January in the space vacated by the Sheffield Market.

The owners, Alicia and Scott Ryan, had long hoped to open their own antiques store in this area and were delighted to be able to start their new business on Route 7. Alicia, who was "born and bred in the Berkshires," started collecting antiques when she was a teenager. "My dad would go to auctions and I would go with him," she said. "I was hooked. As an adult, I only bought old furniture for my home, never anything new."

Scott traces his family's New England roots back to 1723 when his mother's ancestors came here from Europe. Starting in the 19th century, his family had antiques businesses in New Bedford, MA. For 11 years Scott worked for Bradford Auctions, the long-time Sheffield institution that

closed several years ago.

There was quite a bit of work to do before they were able to open the store, including replacing all the lighting fixtures. The Ryans kept the store's original tin ceiling, which gives the space vintage charm.

The store is filled with a mix of affordable used furniture, decorative objects and accessories and true American antiques. Old photographs are all around. In the front corner stands a circa-1910 Victorian-style lollipop chair, whose spindles end in the circlets that give the chair its name.

Glass-fronted display cases are filled with Noritake pieces, china and art pottery. There's a Holcomb and Hoke 1920s popcorn machine that still works and a Biedermeier-style clock. Scott loves to guide men over to the "guys' display case," which contains beer drinking mugs, an



Antiques on the Green in the center of Sheffield.

armadillo basket, a crocodile handbag from pre-Castro Cuba and other oddities.

To find their wares, the Ryans frequent auctions, tag sales and flea markets across New York State and New England. They also make house calls if someone contacts them about a piece of American furniture or an interesting curiosity they want to sell.

Antiques on the Green's summer and fall hours are Thursday through Monday from 10am to 5pm. In December, they will be open Friday through Monday only.

—Judith Schumer

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COBBLE NEWS: APPRECIATING WHAT'S AROUND US

A friend's wife was out of town recently for a week, so we spent every day after work fishing on the Housatonic. As I floated along the river, I once again thought: Wow, how I love this area. Bucolic scenes unfolded around each bend: corn, sky, silver maples, hayfields. I felt the workday stress lifting, leaving me content and peaceful.

I suspect that I'm not the only one so soothed by my surroundings here in Sheffield, and that's one of the reasons many of us have found our way to this corner of the state.

Look in any direction outside and you can have remarkable views: Mt. Everett and Mt. Race, the Housatonic

and Konkapot rivers, Schenob Brook, Three Mile and Mill ponds and long houseless tracks of woodlands and farmlands. This time of year these views are unbeatable. This is when we rediscover them all again. Going about our daily routines we are smacked with dazzling color and we once again truly see what's around us.

This experience, this rekindling of the visceral response to the beauty of nature, strengthens my knowledge that I am where I should be. It would be easy enough for me to relocate and spend my time lounging on a beach in Florida or finding a high-paying job in the city, but when the trees turn red, orange and yellow, I know I have found my place here in Sheffield. I am home.

I realize I'm coming off as a bit mushy, but I can't help it. And I had to write about something for this issue of the Sheffield Times. I'm certainly not about to tell you about the fish I caught. No good fisherman tells.

If you want a spectacular view of Sheffield this month in the company of like-minded people, come and listen to Don Worth play his bagpipes atop Hurlburt's Hill on Sept. 8. (see the events listing below). You will definitely see what I mean.

—Rene Wendell, Conservation Ranger at Bartholomew's Cobble

SHEFFIELD BOY SCOUTS

The Sheffield Boy Scouts began their new year on Aug. 29. The troop meets every Wednesday at 7pm at the American Legion on Route 7 and have at least one event a month. New Scouts and past Scouts are welcome to stop in and see the Scouts in action and decide if it is for them. Kosta Casivant will be this year's Senior Patrol Leader. Owen Wright of New Marlborough is the Scout Master.

Over the summer Kosta, Demitre Cavisant and Pat Hogelin attended camp in leadership roles, and Kosta attended a week of National Youth Leadership Training. We're looking forward to a new agenda of outdoor activities in coming months.

Camp was a good place to work on merit badges. Kosta earned badges for environmental science and rifle shooting. Pat earned geocaching and oceanography. Alex Dagruel earned canoeing. Nick LeGeyt earned space exploration. Nikos Casivant also earned space exploration, and swimming too. Ricky McLoughlin earned archery and astronomy and Sean Smith earned environmental science, shotgun shooting and wilderness survival.

Nick and Nikos also worked towards rank advancement with a full week of outdoor skills training and first aid.

Overnight treks over the summer included a three-day hike on the Appalachian Trail in June and a hike in New York State in August.

COBBLE AND ASHLEY HOUSE EVENTS

Cobble Eco-Volunteers

Every Thursday, 9am-noon. Keeping the Cobble landscape healthy and accessible means a lot of care and attention. During the spring, summer, and fall, we are looking for individuals and groups to regularly help out. Can't make Thursdays or looking for a one-time project? Call Conservation Ranger Rene Wendell.

Labor Day Canoe Trip

Mon., Sept. 3, 8:30 - 11:30am. Celebrate Labor Day by paddling the Housatonic. Watch for bald eagles flying over Bartholomew's Cobble. With your guide, learn about the river's history and its restoration. Paddles, life preservers and boats are provided. Please pre-register. Members: adult \$24; child (10-16) \$10. Nonmembers: adult \$30; child (10-16) \$15.

Sunset Serenade

Sat., Sept. 8, 4:30pm. Hurlburt's Hill at the Cobble offers a wonderful spot to watch the sun go down. On this evening, trek 20 minutes to the hilltop to hear bagpiper Don Worth serenade the sunset, weather permitting. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and a picnic, which we'll tote up

the hill for you in our truck. Members: adult \$8; child free. Nonmembers: adult \$10; child \$1.

Hawk Watch and Picnic

Sat., Oct. 6, I I am-I pm. Come watch for migrating hawks atop Hurlburt's Hill. Bring a blanket, a chair and something to share for a potluck lunch. Free with admission to the Cobble.

'Traces of the Trade' screening

Sat., Oct. 27, 4-7pm. Join us for activities at Ashley House, where one slave spoke up for freedom, and a screening of this documentary about the infamous Triangle Trade of slaves and sugar at the Cobble. Free. Call 413-441-6446 for information.

The Trustees of Reservations manage Bartholomew's Cobble, a National Natural Landmark, on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. It's open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. The Visitor's Center is open from 9am-4:30pm (Tues. to Sat. in winter). Admission is free for members of The Trustees of Reservations and Sheffield Non-members: \$5 adult, \$1 child. Call 229-8600 or email bcobble@ttor.org.



Organizations & Businesses

KIWANIS NEWS & EVENTS

Successful summer campaigns. Our sincere thanks to all who participated in our recent Cruise Raffle. The winners were drawn from the "golden drum" on on Aug. 25 at the annual Kiwanis/Firemen Steak Roast.

Grand prize winner of the nine-day Caribbean cruise for two was Nancy Brown, from Torrington, CT. The second prize of \$1,000 cash went to Deb Harper of Lee, who works at Berkshire School in Sheffield.

Once again we are grateful for our faithful following who showed up hungry and ready to share food and summer time company at the Steak Roast.

Fall campaigns. Three events dominate our calendar in the next couple of months. Members of Kiwanis will host our club's annual Radiothon on Station WSBS on Fri., Oct. 26. Please tune in and support all the community projects we have scheduled for the coming year.

The "Warm the Children" campaign will begin in October. Watch for the ads in the Berkshire Record for details on how you can provide kids with new winter clothing from Kmart for early holiday gifts.

This project is chaired by Jane Berger and Dave Johnson, who coordinate the Kiwanis shoppers who accompany the families as they shop. Last year, we were able to provide winter clothing to more than 150 children.

One of the main ways we raise money for Warm the Children is the Harvest Brunch, which will be held on Oct. 28 (see box at right). Rene Wood and Dave Smith, Sr., supervise this event with help from nearly every Kiwanis member.

Regular duties. Our regular hosting at the Breaking Bread Soup Kitchen, held at the American Legion on Route 7, continues. Our seven-month highway cleanup concludes for the season with the Litter Patrols of Sept. 20 and Oct. 18.

The Kiwanis Café, our mobile refreshment trailer, will offer its tasty menu at the Sheffield Fair at the Town Park on Sat., Sept. 8. The staff will also serve at the Rotary Club's "Fly In" at the Great Barrington airport on Sept. 15, and at the horse show in Egremont's French Park on Sept. 16. Deb Wright and Dave Smith, Sr., have chaired the season's schedule for the food unit.

Honors and officers. On Sat., Oct. 6, the Annual Kiwanis Installation and Awards Banquet will honor retired Police Chief James McGarry with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The event this year will take place at the Egremont Country Club, with cocktails and appetizers at 6:30pm and dinner and ceremony an hour later.

New officers being installed for the 2012-2013 Kiwanis year are JoAnn Shmulsky, president; Jim Collingwood, president-elect; Dennis Hankey, vice president; Pat Salvi, secretary; and Dick Goodwin, treasurer. Seven members of the Board of Directors will also take office. The Kiwanian of the Year presentation concludes the program.

—Dick Goodwin

KIWANIS HARVEST BRUNCH SET FOR END OF OCTOBER

The Sheffield Kiwanis will host its third annual Harvest Brunch on Sun., Oct. 28, from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Sheffield American Legion on Route 7. The Kiwanis will be serving a delicious meal including eggs, sausage, quiche, ham, fruit salad, macaroni and cheese and a selection of muffins and tea breads baked by the members of the club.

A silent auction will feature donations of gift certificates, services and items from local businesses and residents. Every adult attendee will receive a 50/50 raffle ticket, which will have a special prize drawing for advance ticket purchasers. New this year will be a "Chinese auction," for which participants buy raffle chances only for items they're interested in. To make it easier to enter all these, think about bringing preprinted address labels.

Proceeds from the brunch will benefit Warm the Children, which provides winter clothing for children in our community. Last year, the Kiwanis raised almost \$5,000 for the clothing campaign.

Tickets for the brunch are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 4-12, with children under 4 free. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Gulotta's Mobil, Silk's Variety, Berkshire Styles Salon, Shear Image, PJ's Convenience Store and JTC & Sons. In Great Barrington, tickets can be purchased at Smitty's Sandwich Shop, GoodWorks Insurance and Sears. Tickets will also be available at the door.



PASTEL - WATERCOLOR-OIL PAINTINGS

By
Lois Van Cleef
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LAND TRUST NEWS

Fall property walk. On October 20 at 1pm, the Land Trust will host its annual guided Fall Property Walk on private, conserved land. Naturalist Rene Wendell will again be the guide. Watch for details in local media as the date grows closer.

Annual meeting draws a crowd. More than 100 people showed up for the Land Trust's annual meeting and potluck lunch in June. The event was held under a tent on River Lea Farm, near the Sheffield Covered Bridge, and celebrated the protection of that farm through the Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program. This state program helps purchase development rights on farmland, allowing families to get the value of their land without having to sell it or give up its farming use.

As reported in the last issue, Martin and Rosa Brunnschweiler operated River Lea as a dairy farm until the mid 1980s and more recently had horses while leasing the land to the Aragi family of Pine Island Farm. With the APR in place, the

Aragis were able to buy the whole farm so they will permanently have that valuable cropland and barns to feed and house their dairy herd (Pine Island is the largest dairy farm in the state). The farmhouse, which they also bought, will be used for farm worker housing.

At the potluck lunch, Martin spoke of the many years his family lived on and ran River Lea, which covers nearly 300 acres between Boardman St. and the Housatonic River north of Covered Bridge Lane. Louis Aragi, Jr., also spoke about how the land will help him as a farmer, of how he sometimes wakes up at night and worries about having enough to feed his cows.

The Land Trust's initiatives. River Lea is part of the Land Trust's "Housatonic River Corridor" initiative, which includes eight farm properties along the river protected with APRs, as well as a number of conservation restrictions (CRs) and three properties which the land trust owns. The Land Trust is also moving forward on its Sheffield-Egremont Corridor



Volunteers get the tent ready for the Land Trust's annual meeting in one of River Lea Farm's fields.

initiative, which includes a number of CRs and owned properties as well as five APR farm properties in northwest Sheffield and southeast Egremont, including currently Maple Shade and Bow Wow Farms. The third major effort is the Community Trail Network, where the Land Trust is working with Greenager, the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and others to build a bridge over the Schenob Brook and otherwise improve the trails that run near the campus of the school.

All this requires money. The Land Trust must raise \$400,000 to meet the obligations incurred by this work. To make a donation or for more information, contact the Land Trust at P.O. Box 940, Sheffield, MA 012567, 229-0234, shefland@bcn.net, www.sheffieldland.org.



REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

February

- 2 Gregg S. Massini to Christopher A. & Diana W. Williams, property at Clayton Rd., \$300,000.
- 3 William F. & Deborah J. Gulotta to Edward J. & Norma R. Gulotta, property at 301 Miller Ave., \$215,000.
- 29 Barry Emberlin to Gettysburg Group, LLC, property at 599 South Main St., transfer.

March

- 4 Clifford F. Moger & Barry A. Miske to John H. & Katherine E. Stookey, trustees of the John H. & Katherine E. Stookey Revocable Trusts, property at 946 Silver St., \$525,000.
- 27 Oleksandr V. & Tetyana I. Chernysh to Victor J. Zueco, property at 217 Bunce Rd., \$297,000.

April

- 6 Thomas P. & Elizabeth B.G. Marino to Stephen Leining, Trustee of Middle Road Nominee Realty Trust, property at 1885 North Main St., \$270,000.
- 20 John M. Trierwefler & Kevin T. Moran to Nicholas Henderson, property at 1435 County Rd., \$125,000.
- 25 Robert G. & Ann M. Dean to Norman G. & Gillian R. Hettinger, property at 384 Bow Wow Rd., \$285,000.

May

21 Bruno B. & Olga M. Veronesi to Diane M. Shippa, property at 374 Miller Ave., \$119,000.

June

- 20 Shirley Coons & Kenneth Roux to Jeffrey L. Stoddard Jr. & Tracy M. Wilkinson, property at 275 Polikoff Rd., \$55,000.
- 28 Martin & Rosa Brunnschweiler to Louis T. Aragi & Louis T. Aragi, Jr., property at 1025 Boardman St., \$605,000.
- 28 Martin & Rosa Brunnschweiler to Louis T. Aragi & Louis T. Aragi ,Jr., property at Boardman St., \$160,000.
- 29 Anna M. Leffingwell to William J. Bassett, property at 401 Polikoff Rd., \$195,000.
- 29 Neal Borovitz & Ann H. Appelbaum to Alina K. & Tishan Hsu, property at 399 Hewins St., \$330,000.

July

- 13 Stephen W. Agar to Donald R. Roeder, property at 22 Park Lane, \$217,200.
- 20 Mark Pruhenski & Melissa Vansant to Stephen Stewart Browning, property at 55 South Main St., \$179,000.
- 27 Agnes N. Salvan 2003 Revocable Trust to John P. Kemp & Angela Cardinali, property in Sheffield & New Marlborough, \$310,000.

August

3 Irving O. Slavid & Leslie Wolf to John P. & Diana R. Engel, property at 584 Silver St., \$527,500.

FIRE LOG

June

- 18 Alarm at 224 Boardman St.
- 20 Lost hiker on mountain behind Option Institute.
- 25 Alarm at Sheffield Plastics.
- 30 Auto accident at 59 County Rd./Hewins St.
- 30 Mutual aid to New Marlborough Fire Dept.

July

- 2 Auto accident, clean up fuel on Rt.7A.
- 2 House fire at 554 Alum Hill Rd.
- 3 CO detector at 12 Glenana Way.
- Washdown after auto accident at Silk's Variety, Rt. 7.
- 18 Mutual aid to Lakeville, CT, Fire Dept.
- 19 Mutual aid to Sharon, CT, Fire Dept.
- 26 Mutual aid standby in our station for Egremont Fire Dept.

August

- 4 CO detector at 381 Berkshire School Rd.
- 5 Mutual aid to New Marlborough Fire Dept. for structure fire.
- 5 Alarm at 1085 Boardman St.
- 9 Fire alarm at Salisbury Bank.
- II Mutual aid to Stockbridge Fire Dept.

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BY APP'T FRIDAYS



Calendar Page

September

- 3 LABOR DAY
- 6 STATE PRIMARY ELECTION
- 8 Recycling (p. 15)
- 8 Sheffield Fair (p. 7)
- 8 Dewey Hall Folk Series (p. 5)
- 14 Historical Society talk (p. 6)
- 17 ROSH HASHANA
- 21 Community music (p. 9)
- 26 YOM KIPPUR
- 29 Recycling (p. 15)

October

- I Chapter 61A & B deadline (p. 14)
- 5 Dewey Hall Folk Series (p. 5)
- 6 Art show opening (p. 5)
- 7 Church auction (p. 4)
- 7 Pie contest (p. 3)
- 8 COLUMBUS DAY
- 15 Cultural Council grant deadline (p. 17)
- 18 Disabilities talk (p. 16)
- 20 Naturalist walk (p. 21)
- 31 HALLOWEEN
- 15 Deadline NOV./DEC. Sheffield Times
- 28 Good Samaritan Fund benefit (p. 13)

November

- 2 Dewey Hall Folk Series (p. 5)
- 4 DAYLIGHT SAVINTGS ENDS
- 6 ELECTION DAY

See also the listings for Music & More (p. 2), Library (p. 10), Bartholomew's Cobble (p. 19), Kiwanis (p. 20)

Buy local, read local!
Please contribute!

ONLINE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Sheffield Association sponsors a Sheffield Community Calendar for public events in the towns of Sheffield and Ashley Falls. To view the online calendar, go to www.localendar.com/public/SheffieldCalendar.

To submit information to be posted on the calendar, send an email to SheffieldCommunityCalendar@gmail.com.

Please include the following information: Name of event; date; address of location; contact email, phone, or website; admission costs, if any; sponsoring organization; brief description of event. Information may be edited for space and appropriateness.

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur less than weekly are noted with a week number – i.e. "1st, 3rd" indicates meetings are on the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed.

Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays

Mondays:

Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7am-1pm Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd

Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm,

2nd, 4

Board of Health, Town Hall, 6pm, 2nd

Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church,

9-10:30an

* Foot care clinic, Senior Center, 1st

Tuesdays:

Building Inspector, 7am-1pm

Ashley Falls Historic District Commission,

Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd

Senior Center physical fitness, 9am

Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am

Senior Center "Lawn Chair Movie." 11:30am

Kiwanis Club, The Bridge Restaurant, 6:30pm

Wednesdays:

Senior Center Knitting Group, 3pm, 1st
Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th (4th

only for summer)

Thursdays:

Building Inspector, Thurs. 11am-6 pm

Senior Center physical fitness, 9am

Third Thursday Luncheon, Senior Center, noon

* Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3rd

Breaking Bread Kitchen, Amerlican Legion Hall, 5pm

Fridays

Building Inspector, 11am-4pm

Council on Aging, 9:30am, as needed

Commission on Disabilities, Library, 3:30pm 3rd

Farmers' Market, 2:30-6:30pm, Old Parish

Church Darking Let (through Sentember

Church Parking Lot (through September)

Saturdays:

Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, 8pm, 1st

Senior Center Knitting Group, 11am, 3rd

Sundays:

Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd

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Sept 1 Bach's Musical Offering Free pre-concert talk, 3:30 p.m.



Christopher Krueger, baroque flute Daniel Stepner, baroque violin Jane Starkman, baroque violin & viola Laura Jeppesen, viola da gamba John Gibbons, harpsichord



Daedalus String Quartet Mendelssohn, Perle and Dvorák

Praised by *The New Yorker* as "a fresh and vital young participant in what is a golden age of American string quartets"

Sept 15 Boston Classical Trio *Free pre-concert talk, 4 p.m.*Susanna Ogata, violin; Guy Fishman, cello;

Susanna Ogata, violin; Guy Fishman, cello; lan Watson, fortepiano

Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert

Sept 22 Brahms Violin Sonatas and Mendelssohn

Free pre-concert talk, 3:30 p.m.
Robert Levin, piano • Daniel Stepner, violin

Sept 29 Jazz, Latin, and World Fusion Vocalist Maria Rivas; Paul Green, Jewish/Jazz Project Wine tasting after the show

Oct 6 Award-Winning Authors
Mitchel Levitas of *The New York Times*with Liza Mundy, Andrew Nagorski,
and Peter Cameron













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